Mount Wachusett Community College

Fall 2011

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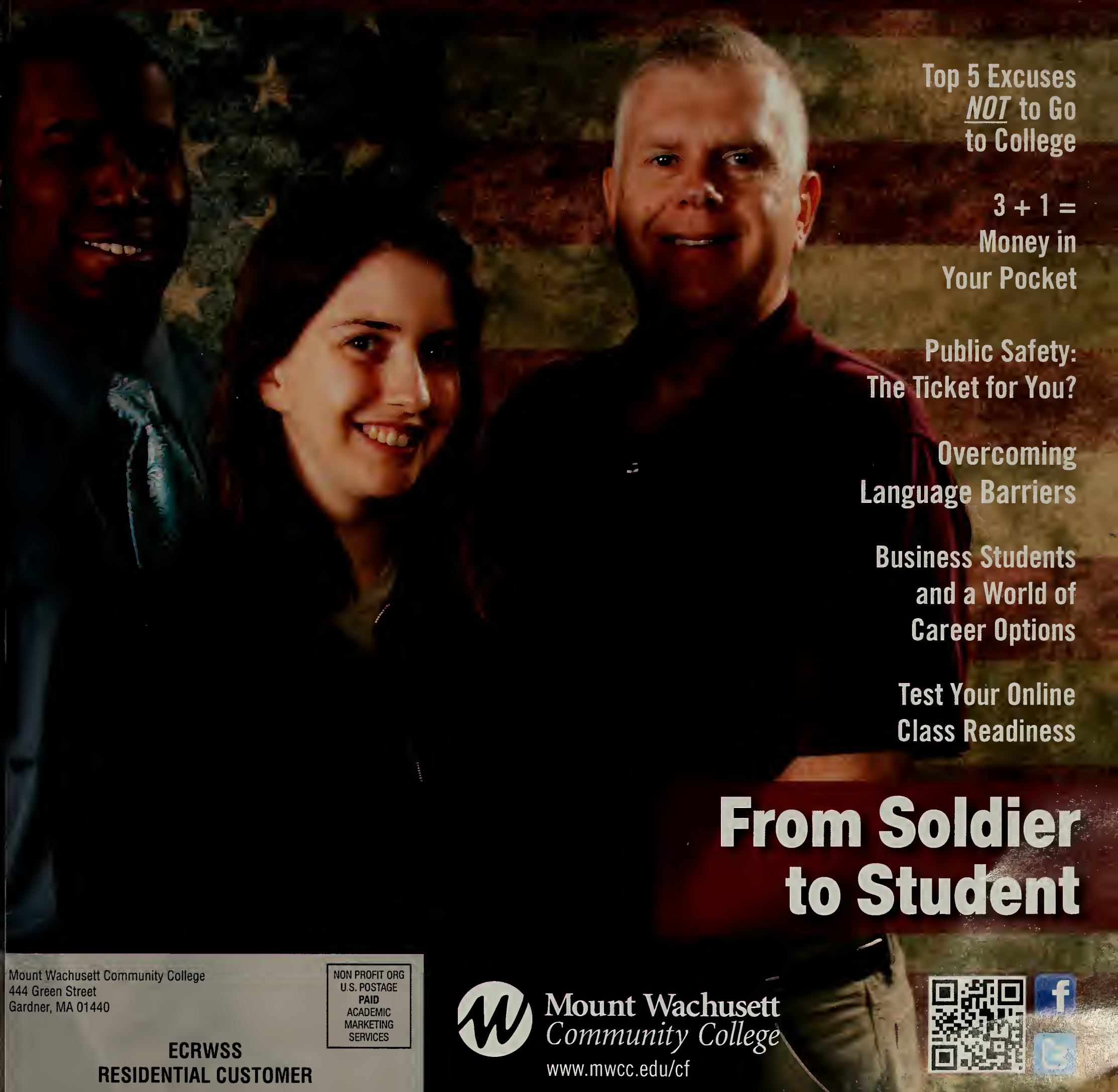
CareerFocus



Top 5 Excuses *NOT* to Go to College

3 + 1 = Money in Your Pocket

Public Safety: The Ticket for You?

Overcoming Language Barriers

Business Students and a World of Career Options

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Mount Wachusett Community College Gazette

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Mount Wachusett Community College

CareerFocus™

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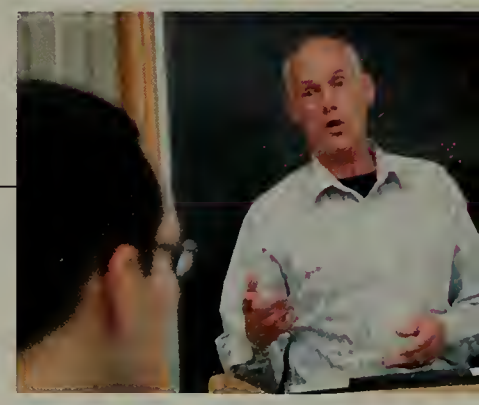

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Mount Wachusett Community College

Feature

The *Top Five* Excuses Adult Learners Use Not to Go to College

. . . and Advice From Other Adult Learners About Why These Excuses Don't Fly

By Nichole Carter

You wake up every day to return to the same job you have been dragging yourself to for the past 10 years. However, you don't see a way out. More sitting at a computer crunching numbers you don't care about; or performing mind-numbing data entry; or performing work that, let's face it, was fine 10 years ago, but is starting to wear on you physically now.

You've always been interested in helping people, or computers, or nursing, or [insert your interest here] but you're not sure if you can hack going to college at this point. You don't have time. You're afraid of math. Your cat wants you home at night. The excuses are endless.

"For most adult learners, college really is possible," says Debra Boucher, assistant director of enrollment services at Mount Wachusett Community College, who was also an adult learner who returned to college herself. "You have to make a choice whether you are going to live the life of your dreams or a life of excuses."

Here are some top excuses. We'll work on debunking each one.

Excuse #1: "I didn't do well when I was in high school. Therefore, I won't do well in college."

You might have been really great at field hockey or football while you were in high school. You might have slept in until noon on the weekends. You might have worn flip-flops in the winter time. Who you were in high school has little relevance to who you are today. Your values, interests, and yes, your skills, have evolved.

You might be sorely out of practice at playing football today, though you might have been great at it 20 years ago. Likewise, you might be a great student today though you weren't when you were younger. You're more motivated. You have a lot of great experience to draw upon. You're more mature.

"We have students come in who are absolutely brilliant and have no idea of their potential," says Boucher. "Returning to college ends up being such a confidence-builder for them."

Leave this excuse in the past, along with your 20 year-old mediocre high school report card.

Excuse #2: "I don't have the time."

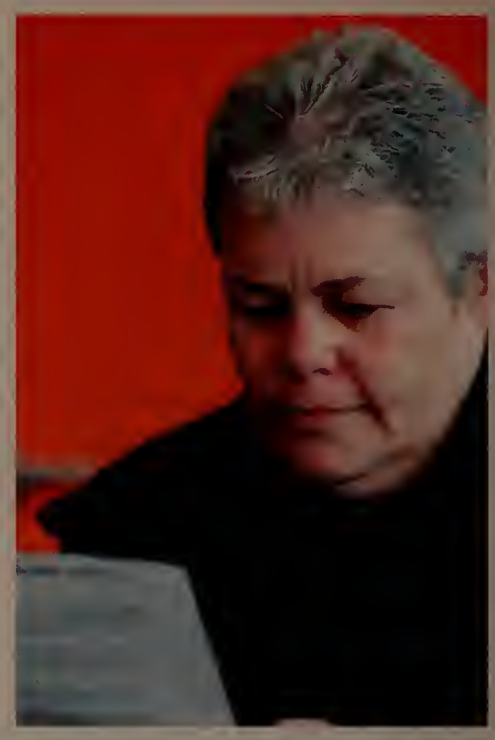
We're all doing a million things. However, think of the time that is wasted in your life when you're unhappy with your career path. We tend to compensate for our unhappiness with other huge time and money wasters. You may constantly go shopping, eat out, or play mindless games on the computer, all in an attempt to feed yourself because your profession is not feeding you.

Also, most colleges, including MWCC, cater to busy adults. At MWCC, courses are offered at multiples campuses day, evening, and online. Many parents like taking online courses, which allow them to complete their courses without having to arrange childcare. Through online learning, students take their classes when their children go to bed, on their lunch breaks, or whenever it's convenient for them.

You will probably find that, when you begin learning material that resonates with you, you will have a lot more energy and time to get the work done than you thought.

Excuse #3: "I can't afford it."

You may think that college is out of your reach because of cost. However, college may be more affordable than you think. "Financial aid and scholarships are available to those who qualify for both full-time and part-time students," says Mary Buffone, MWCC's associate director of financial aid. Buffone encourages students to apply early. This gives them the best chance of a financial



package that meets their needs. A majority of MWCC students receive some sort of financial aid.

Most colleges, including MWCC, have payment plans allowing you to pay your bill monthly instead of in one lump sum.

Buffone encourages all students considering college to fill out the FAFSA form, the first step in the financial aid process, by going to www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Buffone points out that money can be available from sources you may not have thought of. "Many employers offer tuition assistance, so it's worth asking about."

When it comes down to it, MWCC, at approximately $4,575 a year, costs significantly less than most other colleges.

"When students are leery about cost, I tell them that this is an investment in their future. While it may be difficult now, it can increase your earning potential later on," says Carol Cullins, MWCC assistant director of enrollment management.

So you've taken courses in the past? Will they count?

Our lives are rarely a straight path. Instead, you may have many past college and work experiences. You might have a certificate from five years ago, two courses you took seven years ago, etc. For students with this type of background, their first question is, does any of this count toward a degree or certificate I would like to work toward now?

The scoop

First of all, most associate degrees require about 60 credits. MWCC can accept up to 30 of your past credits toward a degree. While past credits generally are accepted, the college does not accept coursework where significant changes have occurred in a given field (for instance, computer and technology fields change constantly). Science credits for the nursing program cannot be any more than five years old, either.

For those with significant life experience in a certain subject matter, CLEP and Dantes tests are available that allow you to test out of certain courses, at an affordable price. CLEP and Dantes credits may even transfer, in some cases, if you decide to continue your education after MWCC.

Excuse #4: "I can't do math."

So you haven't done calculus since your junior year of high school. So what? You won't be thrown into calculus your first semester (and maybe not at all if your degree or certificate doesn't require it). When you enter as a new student, you will be placed in courses that match the level you are at and you will start there.

For those who see math as an insurmountable challenge, like walking the entire length of the Mohave Dessert with no shoes, Boucher encourages some perspective. "I had an advisee who said that she just couldn't do it. At the same time, I had seen this student conquer huge personal challenges in her life, not related to her academic career at all. I told her that making it through math was just one more opportunity to grow her life skills."

Excuse #5: "I don't know what I want to study."

You know that you want to earn a degree in something, you just aren't sure what that something is yet! Do you keep putting off college until the bolt of inspiration comes?

"Students can always enroll in Liberal Arts & Sciences, which gives them a variety of courses to get started where they can explore their interests," explains Cullins. "From there, they can make an appointment with career services to take assessments to help them figure out their interests and what types of careers would suit them."

An Adult Learner Passionate About Helping Other Adult Learners

Debra Boucher

Assistant Director of Enrollment Services

Debra Boucher came to MWCC as a student at age 33 after being a stay-at-home mom for 13 years. "When I was 'college-age,' circumstances just didn't allow for me to go to college. Instead I started a family," she says.

By her early 30s, Deb had three children who were increasingly independent. "I realized that my 'gig' as a stay-at-home mom was coming to an end. I decided it was time to fulfill my lifelong dream of going to college."

Putting herself on a 10-year plan, Boucher completed her associate degree at MWCC, her bachelor's degree at Mount Holyoke College, and will hold her master's degree in counseling at the end of August.

"When I started, I wasn't sure what I wanted to study. So, I studied what I found interesting and engaging," she says. "I realized my true interest is in counseling."

Boucher now has a career as assistant director of enrollment services where she is passionate about helping other adults on a similar path returning to college.

Feature

Create Your Future Through *Visual Art* & Design

Forget your ideas of the "*starving artist.*" Creative careers are on the rise!

By Kim Anderson

Who says you can't have a creative career? At MWCC several degree and certificate programs allow students to pursue careers in the creative industries. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook, careers in the creative industries are expected to grow 12 percent through 2018. From art, theatre and design to photography, careers in the field are continuing to grow.

At MWCC students can pursue:

Art

There are many areas of the field where those with an art degree may find work including fine arts, design and teaching. Students routinely earn associate degrees in MWCC's Art program and transfer to prominent four-year colleges and universities including Massachusetts College of Art and Design; School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; UMass, Amherst; UMass, Dartmouth; and Maine College of Art in Portland. Graduates have also transferred to Smith College, Williams College, Pratt Institute, Rhode Island School of Design, and the School of Visual Arts in New York.

What makes MWCC's art department unique from other programs is that it provides students

the opportunity to experience a well-rounded curriculum of drawing, painting, sculpture and ceramics, while experiencing small class sizes.

The department, which recently won a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts, offers an associate degree program for students interested in entering the art field or transfering to a four-year college.

MWCC's Art program is housed in the Raymond M. LaFontaine Fine Arts Center along side the East Wing Gallery and it includes three fully-equipped studios and a full range of art classes, from drawing to portfolio preparation. Did you know that MWCC is one of the only community colleges in Massachusetts that offers a bronze sculpture class? According to Joyce Miller, chair of the art department at MWCC, "The advanced sculpture course offers students the opportunity to create small-scale bronze sculptures, using the lost wax technique."

Also, Thomas Matsuda, associate professor of art, recently incorporated stone and wood carving into the sculpture curriculum.

"What makes our program unique is it's a solid foundation art program which is equal to a four-year program. We offer classes in all the traditional media and also have access to both gas and electric kilns," says Miller, who received her B.F.A. from Illinois State University and her M.F.A. in sculpture from UMass, Amherst and has exhibited sculpture, ceramics and mixed media drawings in galleries throughout the U.S.

The college also offers courses in ceramics using hand-building methods and the potter's wheel; sculpture using wood, stone, clay, bronze and other materials; painting in watercolors, acrylics and oils; and two-dimensional and three-dimensional design. MWCC's East Wing Gallery, directed by Professor John Pacheco, displays work created by students, MWCC alumni, and professional artists. Pacheco received his bachelor's degree from Yale University, studying under William Bailey, and his MFA in painting from Boston University, studying under James Weeks.

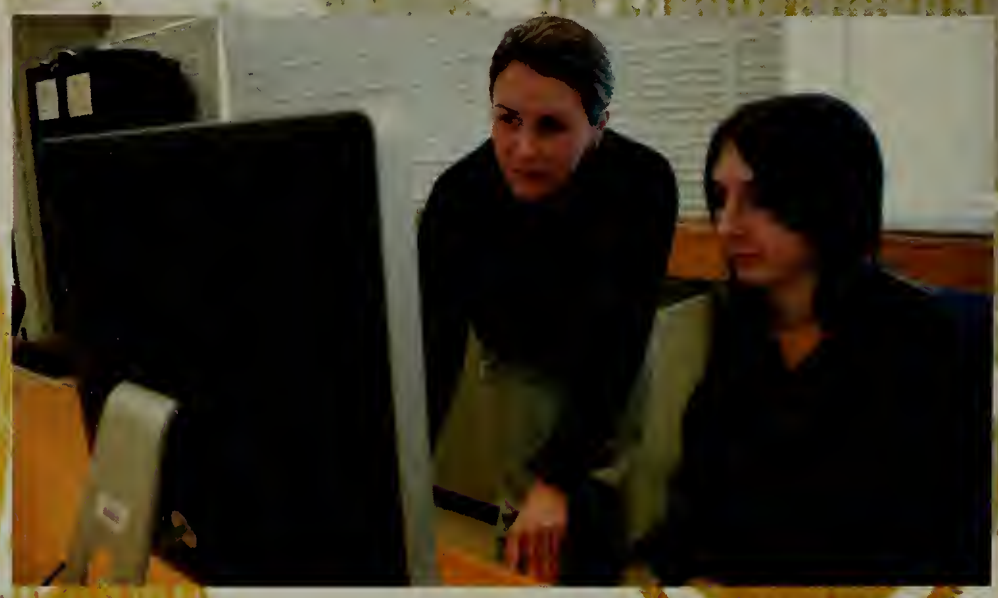
The program offers opportunities for students to gain experience outside of the classroom through service learning projects that include teaching assistantships, workshops and volunteering in local communities.

Computer Graphic Design

Graphic designers are responsible for the creative concept, design, layout and execution of printed and digital materials such as ads, brochures, logos, annual reports, catalogs, signage, kiosks, websites, packaging and posters.

MWCC offers both associate and certificate computer graphic design programs that provide students with the visual design, communication, and computer graphic skills necessary to obtain an entry-level position in the field or to continue their education at a four-year college or university.

For the associate program, students can choose a print or web media concentration. In the print concentration, students learn page layout software, design theory and techniques, and preparing design work for print. Students also learn advanced computer skills such as digital imaging, electronic illustration and web design. In the web concentration, students learn basic and advanced techniques of creating effective, well-designed, interactive web sites. Students are taught basic design theory, digital imaging and electronic illustration skills and techniques. In addition, students learn basic hypertext markup languages and top level authoring software using what you see is what you get (WYSIWYG) technology.



Graphic design students also develop professional portfolios and take part in service learning projects in the community and college. Some of the projects include poster design, web site creation, signage and identity creation.

Photography

According to MWCC's photography instructor Bob Mayer, who has spent many years working professionally as a photographer himself, photography is a growing field. With credentials or training in photography, students can pursue careers as photojournalists or event, restaurant, product and portrait photographers.

MWCC provides a well-rounded education and training in portrait, commercial, product, wedding and stock photography. Students gain hands-on experience in studio, outdoor and window light.

With photography growing in the self-employment sector, the program takes a practical focus by incorporating a curriculum that not only teaches photography, but also focuses on business management and marketing to prepare students for small business operation.

Advantages of the program include a digital approach, as well as the affordability factor when compared to other photography schools. "It gives the student expertise at a fraction of the cost of other photography schools," says Mayer.

This program concentrates on the necessary skills for students to enter the field of professional digital photography. Today's photographer is artistic, technically and technologically skilled, as well as business savvy.

Theatre

According to Professor Gail Steele, director of MWCC's Theatre at the Mount, a theatre degree allows students to pursue careers both on and off stage. Steele says that students who are creative and

possess some sort of talent and organization can have successful careers in the field, and not just acting careers. "There are other kinds of jobs besides acting that you can attain with a degree in theatre," Steele says.

For example, students can enter the field in a number of different roles including acting, directing, marketing, education and playwriting.

A concentration in theatre through MWCC's Liberal Arts degree program provides students the opportunity to transfer to a four-year college or university. Those concentrating in theatre have transferred to UMass, Amherst, Bridgewater State and Salem State Universities, along with Emerson College and Lesley University's ART Institute in Cambridge.

There are also opportunities to gain experience through productions with MWCC's Theatre at the Mount, which provides more year-round productions than most four-year colleges and universities.

Tap into your creative side. Be a star!

One of MWCC's stars is Emma Roberts. She became involved in Theatre at the Mount and has since gone on to the American Repertory Theatre Institute in Cambridge, becoming the youngest actor accepted by the institute at age 17.

Creative Faculty...

East Meets West in MWCC's Art Wing

Thomas Matsuda

Through his artistic pursuits, MWCC associate professor of art, Thomas Matsuda collaborates with fellow artists throughout the world, then brings the experiences and perspectives back to his students at Mount Wachusett Community College.

Most recently, the noted artist of traditional Buddhist sculptures, stone lanterns, contemporary sculpture and abstract drawings traveled to Qatar, taking part in "2 x 2," a four-person exhibition designed to inspire culture and dialogue by uniting two artists from the West and two from the Middle East. Prior to that, he has participated in exhibitions and symposiums throughout the U.S., Japan, England, Egypt, Romania and other countries.

Matsuda earned his BFA in drawing and painting from Pratt Institute, and his MFA in sculpture from UMass, Amherst. He started his art career as a lithographic printer in New York, creating abstract drawings, paintings, and prints influenced by Eastern philosophy. His interests led him to accompany a group of Japanese Buddhist monks on a peace pilgrimage that involved walking across America for six months. He then spent six months in Arizona with the Navajo.

Following these experiences, he traveled to Japan in 1983, where he apprenticed under the renowned sculptor Koukei Eri for two years, before moving to a remote mountain village for 10 years. There, he carved sculptures from wood he hauled out of the mountain forests and from stones he selected from riverbeds. Matsuda carved over 200 sculptures in Japan for various temples, shrines, villages, businesses and individual patrons, and exhibited his work in many major cities. Major commissions include a seven-ton marble Buddha for the Grafton Peace Pagoda in Grafton, NY.

In 2009, Matsuda, who teaches drawing, design and sculpture at MWCC, organized "Prayer Flags Around the World," a traveling exhibit featuring pieces by international artists that continues to make its way around the globe.

These varied experiences influence his work and are used in the classroom to provide students with a worldly perspective on art and culture. Matsuda explains, "I share my experiences with my students and believe they serve as an inspiration of the possibilities of what can be done in art and how exciting it can be."

– Janice O'Connor

Feature

New Center of Excellence Helping Veterans Transition to College

Serving those who have served their country

By Janice O'Connor

Coming from a long line of veterans and with a passion for serving in the U.S. Army, Erik Goroshko anticipated a long military career. Those plans abruptly changed when the infantry squad he was leading was ambushed in Iraq in 2006. Following a routine mission escorting an explosives team sent to detonate a bomb that had been discovered, Goroshko's squad was on its way back to the base when it was hit by a mortar round and an improvised explosive device (IED), killing one of the nine men and wounding several others. A sergeant in the National Guard, Goroshko suffered a head injury when the bomb exploded and ultimately made the difficult decision to retire after 12 years of service.

Now, at 34, the father of three is transitioning to life as a college student to help determine which direction his future will take.

Easing the transition to college life

Goroshko is one of nearly 200 veterans attending Mount Wachusett Community College and tapping into an array of services available through the college's new Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success. MWCC was one of 15 colleges in the country selected to establish a veterans success center through a Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Serving as national models, the centers are being created to help ease the transition to college life for veterans and their families, as well as to provide ongoing support for current active members of the military and their families.

"I always wanted to better myself with an education," Goroshko says. "Career advancement would have gone further within the enlisted ranks, but at the time, school wasn't an option because we were at war."

Veteran students Jeremy Pratt and Erik Goroshko.

Since 2010, the Gardner resident has been taking two to three courses per semester as he works toward a degree. "This school has been phenomenal," he says. "I get all the support that I need, whether it's through disability services or academic counseling. You don't see that anywhere else, and you don't see a community college that is so dedicated to veterans."

A veteran-friendly environment

From the initial point of contact at MWCC, veterans receive special personalized assistance from the center's assistant project director, Kristine Larkin, and the veterans' academic coach, Tom Tobin, a Navy veteran.

"As these men and women transition from service to college, they encounter many barriers," Larkin explains. "They seek an environment that is veteran-friendly. Often feeling all alone, they need guidance, patience, and support in making sense of the unfamiliar—to be part of something. The Center of Excellence has transitioned to something more than a place to receive support and services. It is a place that has brought similar-minded men and women together to support each other."

The new Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success at MWCC addresses the unique academic, financial, physical and social needs of veterans transitioning to college life, Larkin explains. Specifically, the center provides support to returning veterans seeking information about their education and other GI benefits.

In addition to offering a long list of specialized services, the center has established strong internal relationships with other departments as well as local community providers to support its veterans, Larkin explains. In collaboration with the college's TRIO Student Support Services "Visions" program, the Center of Excellence refers veteran students to workshops to learn basic skills on time management, active learning strategies, memory strategies,

test-taking strategies, and stress management techniques. Also, in collaboration with the college's disabilities coordinator, the Center of Excellence advocates for veteran students to receive resources to assist with overcoming physical and learning disabilities, communication issues, and psychological or other medical challenges such as post traumatic stress syndrome.

Referrals are also arranged for veterans seeking services from community providers for assistance with personal counseling, obtaining shelter and food, transportation to area VA centers and other needs.

A "touch of home"

Moreover, the Center of Excellence provides veteran students with the ability to relax, study, get a cup of coffee and snack, as well as use the computers and other adaptive technology available at the center, Larkin says. The Center of Excellence truly represents a "touch of home" for veteran students at MWCC, designated a Yellow Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs.

Business Administration major Ray Greeno, a 24-year Army veteran, says the center has played an important role in his transition into college.

"I was so overwhelmed when I first started classes in January, that I wanted to do an about face and go home," says Greeno, an Athol resident.

"Talking to my professors and the assistance I received from the Veterans Success Center got me going in the right direction. I couldn't believe all the resources that the center and college have to offer. The Veterans Success Center is a place that has a feeling of camaraderie."

MWCC's Student Veterans of America club raised $500 for the Montachusett Veterans Outreach Center in Gardner through a car wash and bake sale during the spring 2011 semester. Pictured from left, Kristine Larkin and Tom Tobin of MWCC's Veterans Success Center, MVOC Executive Director Charles Bollinger III, and student veterans Trevor Stacy, Chris Akey, Jeremy Pratt, Michael Valila, James Colbert, Brian LaPrise and Chris Shea.

A retired Army master sergeant who served a year supervising main gate operations at Forward Operating Base Speicher in Tikrit, Iraq, Greeno said the adjustment to civilian life is challenging on many fronts. For one, he grappled with a feeling of emptiness after retiring earlier than anticipated.

"I had to find something to get my mind going, because I felt myself sinking into a black hole. I needed an outlet, and what I found was MWCC, which has helped me a great deal with that emptiness and with a long-term goal that I had to get a college education," says Greeno.

Jeff Murray, an eight-year Navy veteran and also a Business Administration major, says the center has helped him access services such as tutoring, and has served as a resource for becoming involved on campus. "The center helps me get in touch with other veterans," he says. "I love it."

Like Murray, many of the student veterans affiliated with the center are also active in the student veterans club, which this year affiliated with the Student Veterans of America. This semester, the chapter raised $500 to benefit a local veterans organization.

Rebecca Gilbert of Leominster served four years in the U.S. Marine Corps, using her musical talent in flute and piccolo to perform throughout the U.S. and abroad in the Albany Marine Corps Band stationed in Georgia. After returning to Massachusetts, she became determined to make the most of expanded education benefits offered to veterans under the Post 9/11 GI bill, enacted in 2009. A Liberal Arts major, Gilbert is active in MWCC's veterans club, math club, student newspaper and Student Government Association.

"It's a really good opportunity for me."

John Niekrash, left, CEO and founder of Work Vessels for Veterans, recently delivered laptop computers to Business Administration major Ray Green and several other MWCC student veterans, through an initiative of the college's new Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success.

Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success Services

- Tailored admissions and advising counseling
- Career services counseling
- Transfer assistance
- Veteran benefits and financial aid advising
- Assistance for students with disabilities
- An orientation course geared toward veterans
- Referrals to on-campus and off-campus service providers
- Textbook loan program
- Emergency, scholarship and yellow ribbon funds
- An adaptive technology loan program
- Study groups
- A mentoring program
- Tutoring
- Computers and a quiet study area for students

Feature

3 + 1 = Big $avings for Students

By Kim Anderson

Interested in earning a bachelor's or master's degree, but nervous about cost? After all, a private college or university education with room and board can cost over $50,000 a year or more. Imagine starting your education at Mount Wachusett Community College and then transferring to a private four-year college, without paying four-year prices. It's possible. Start at MWCC and transfer through one of several 3 + 1 programs.

Among the MWCC alumni and 3+1 participants who graduated in May 2011 from Nichols College with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration were Gloria Correa, Patrick Cochran and Jessica Soto.

What is a 3 + 1 Program? 3 + 1 and Beyond?

A 3 + 1 program is a transfer agreement that allows students to complete their first three years of college at MWCC, at MWCC prices, before transferring to a bachelor's program at a participating private college or university. Yearly, an education at MWCC will cost less than $5,000. The 3 + 1 and 3 + 1 and Beyond programs allow students to complete three years at MWCC before transferring into a master's program.

The 3 + 1 and 3 + 1 and Beyond programs are types of articulation agreements. Articulation agreements are contracts between two or more institutions that allow specific credit at one institution to be accepted for entry or advanced standing at another.

"An articulation agreement is an excellent opportunity to further your education because it prepares the steps, planning and coaching, while saving time and money," says Limari Rivera, transfer counselor at MWCC. Students register for the program during their last semester of their associate degree program.

Dia Moua, being pinned during MWCC's dental hygiene pinning ceremony in May 2011, plans to pursue a bachelor's degree through one of MWCC's new transfer programs.

At MWCC, students can participate in 3 + 1 programs with the following colleges and universities:

BELLEVUE UNIVERSITY

Real Learning for *Real* Life

Bellevue University

MWCC recently formed a new 3 + 1 agreement with Bellevue University, a four-year accredited university located in Bellevue, Nebraska. Students graduating from any MWCC associate degree program can qualify for participation in this program. They will be able to take many of their junior level courses at MWCC toward their degree program at Bellevue. All Bellevue courses will be taken online.

CharterOak STATE COLLEGE

Degrees Without Boundaries

Charter Oak State College

Established by the Connecticut legislature in 1973, Charter Oak State College is an accredited college that provides online degree options in a variety of programs, including business, health care, public safety and information systems.

Based in New Britain, Connecticut, Charter Oak provides online 3 + 1 transfer opportunities for all MWCC degree programs.

MCPHS

Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS)

For students interested in pursuing a master's degree, the 3 + 1 agreement with MCPHS allows graduates of MWCC's nursing program to enter the MCPHS Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Family Nurse Practitioner Bridge Program at the Worcester campus.

In the program, students will complete 84 credits during their first three years at MWCC, before attending MCPHS. At MCPHS, students will take an additional 20 credits, which creates a bridge to the master's program, before completing the final 40 credits in the master's program. Through this seamless transfer program, students who earn an associate degree at MWCC and become licensed registered nurses can gain experience in the nursing field while earning both a master's degree in nursing and training to become family nurse practitioners at MCPHS.

MOUNT IDA college

Mount Ida College

MWCC's dental hygiene program graduates now have the option of pursuing a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene from Mount Ida in Newton. The new transfer program will enable participants to transfer their dental hygiene and general education credits to Mount Ida.

Once in the bachelor's degree program, students will pursue one of four concentrations including management (online or on-campus); education (online); forensic science (on-campus); or pre-professional (on campus). The program will prepare students for practice, as well as for graduate school or a career in education.

"An articulation agreement is an excellent opportunity to further an education because it provides the steps, planning and coaching, while saving time and money," says Rivera.

Regis College

At Regis College, located in Weston, graduates of MWCC's Nursing program have the opportunity to continue their education in Nursing.

The program is an "R.N. to B.S. to M.S. Upward Mobility Program," which enables students graduating from MWCC's nursing program to transition seamlessly to Regis College to pursue a bachelor's and master's degree in nursing.

MWCC's associate degree nursing graduates who have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and current licenses in nursing are eligible for the program. This curriculum track has been designed with both full-time and part-time options, and students have the option of exiting the program with the baccalaureate degree in nursing.

Saint Joseph's College of Maine

Saint Joseph's College of Maine allows students to complete a bachelor's degree entirely online. MWCC has 10 articulation agreements with Saint Joseph's from business administration, to criminal justice to nursing.

Nichols College

In the Nichols 3 + 1 program, students may take their final year of courses online, at satellite campuses or at Nichols' campus in Dudley.

Eric Gendron took advantage of the 3 + 1 business program with Nichols College. While in high school, he participated in a dual enrollment program at MWCC and completed a full year of college in the process.

A 3 + 1 program is a transfer agreement that allows students to complete their first three years of college at MWCC, at MWCC prices, before transferring to a bachelor's program at a participating private college or university.

After high school, and encouraged by Professor Michael Greenwood to enroll in the 3 + 1 transfer program with Nichols College, Gendron continued at MWCC while working part time and earned an associate degree in Business Administration.

He then completed all of the course requirements for a bachelor's degree at age 20, and officially became the first student to graduate from the 3 + 1 program with Nichols in 2009. He is now enrolled in the Master's in Business Administration program at Nichols.

For more information on the available 3 + 1 transfer programs, contact Limari Rivera at 978-630-9197.

Busy Working Mom Earns Bachelor's Degree Online at Home

When MWCC alumna Kelley MacLean of Gardner walked across the stage at Saint Joseph's College of Maine to receive her bachelor's degree in Human Services this past May, it was her first time setting foot on the campus. MacLean, among the first graduates of MWCC's 3+1 partnership with the private liberal arts college, completed her bachelor's degree online. She accomplished this while raising four children, including triplets, fostering another child, and working full-time as a family services coordinator at Montachusett Opportunity Council Family Child Care and Head Start.

MacLean started her academic career at MWCC as a part-time student while teaching pre-school. She eventually enrolled full-time and earned two associate degrees, one in Early Childhood Education and the other in Human Services. She graduated in May 2009 with honors.

After graduating, she transferred to Saint Joseph's, located on the shore of Sebago Lake in Standish, to finish her bachelor's degree. The 3+1 agreement with Saint Joseph's allows students to complete their associate degree plus earn an additional 30 to 32 credits at MWCC at MWCC prices, before transferring to Saint Joseph's for their senior year in the fields of business administration, criminal justice, human services, adult education and training, or nursing.

"The convenience of online courses, the cost savings and an array of classes were the biggest advantages," she says.

MacLean attributes her success to the support she received from her husband, children and transfer advisors at MWCC and Saint Joseph's. "Finishing my degree is something I always wanted to do. If not for my advisors, I probably wouldn't have been able to do it."

MacLean is now pursuing a master's degree in Human Services online at Post University of Waterbury, Conn.

– Kim Anderson

Feature

Business Degrees: The Flexible Career Choice

How can you go wrong with a business degree? Enough said.

A business education

Are you interested in positioning yourself for a better entry-level opportunity, getting your bachelor's degree in business, or perhaps vying for a promotion in your current job? Mount Wachusett Community College's business programs can prepare you for a rewarding career with skills in such areas as accounting, business law, human resources, international business, marketing and management.

Depending on whether you plan to transfer on to earn a bachelor's degree, or immediately apply your expertise in the workplace, MWCC's associate degrees are both convenient options that can help you get ahead. Remember, associate and bachelor's degrees will get you in the door, but a Master in Business Administration (MBA) is often required to fill top management positions.

The world of business

There's a niche for practically everyone, so it's up to you to decide which business career fits you best. If you think you might like to work for yourself, consider entrepreneurship or accounting. If your goal is to work for a large corporation, consider human resources, banking or management.

"The MWCC business degree prepares you for global possibilities," says Janice Barney, Dean of the School of Business, Science and Technology. "Technology has expanded the scope of business in the 21st century and graduates with a business degree have flexibility and adaptability in a changing marketplace, whether they see themselves as business owners in their local community or in management positions at a Fortune 500 company."

Business and you

Consider your personality and temperament, and then research which business degree track fits you. MWCC's career services office has many career exploration tools to help you with this. Analytical and outgoing? Try marketing. Analytical and introverted? Maybe accounting is for you. Got a great idea and a lot of nerve? You're the perfect entrepreneur. Calm and methodical? Perhaps you belong in human resources.

MWCC's business program emphasizes strong academic rigor, leadership, critical thinking, and the applied business skills needed on the job. Students interested in transferring on for a bachelor's degree are accepted into a variety of public and private institutions, including UMass, Amherst's Eisenberg School of Management; the Massachusetts state universities including Fitchburg, Worcester, Salem, Framingham, Bridgewater, and Westfield; UMass, Dartmouth; UMass Lowell; Bentley University and Nichols College.

In addition, MWCC offers a certificate program in business as an option for those who would like a background in business or would like to explore business before pursuing a degree.

Business Program Options at MWCC

- Accounting Concentration Degree*
- Business Administration—Career Degree
- Business Administration—Transfer Degree*
- Business Administration Certificate
- Accounting Certificate

*2 Business Administration Degree

Easy Transfer

By attending MWCC for your first two years and then transferring to a university, you can benefit from smaller class sizes and valuable academic support systems while saving money on tuition.

It has long been a priority of MWCC to make transferring trouble-free by providing quality academic courses and forging partnerships with receiving universities. As another tool to help ease the process, MWCC is part of the MassTransfer program. This program makes finding the transfer equivalencies of courses from college to universities quick and easy.

3+1 with Colleges and Universities

Articulation agreements are formal partnerships between MWCC and a four-year college or university in which the transfer of a program, and its credits, is guaranteed. In some cases, you can take three years at MWCC—paying MWCC's tuition rate—and complete your bachelor's degree at the partner institution with one year of courses. Such is the case with the 3+1 agreements with Nichols College, Saint Joseph's College of Maine, Charter Oak State College and others.

"The advantages are two-fold in the 3+1 programs," says Carol Cullins, assistant director of enrollment management. "A student who is unsure what his or her course of study can begin by taking freshmen and sophomore level courses in a small personal environment, while learning what area he or she will want to concentrate on. MWCC provides students a great foundation to go on and succeed," explains Cullins.

Facts AND Finds

We're Number 12! We're Number 12!

It used to be that the U.S. had bragging rights to the best-educated workforce in the world, but no more. Since the 1980s the country has fallen to 12th place in the percentage of the population with a college education.

Today just 40.4 percent of Americans age 25- to 34-years-old have an associate degree or higher.

The most educated country in the world is our northern neighbor Canada, where 55.8 percent of 25- to 34-year olds have an associate degree or higher.

The remaining top five are Korea, The Russian Federation, Japan and New Zealand. But also ahead of the U.S. are Ireland, Norway, Israel, France, Belgium and Australia.

Source: "College Graduation Rates: Behind the Numbers," American Council on Education

Student Debt Continues to Rise

The cost of a college education has been rising faster than inflation for decades, but some colleges are better bargains than others–so would-be students should shop carefully. A college education doesn't have to include loads of student loan debt.

According to a November 2010 survey by the Pew Research Center, college students are taking on more debt than ever and private, for-profit colleges, which tend to charge more than publicly supported community colleges and universities, are one of the reasons for the increase.

Students who attend for-profit colleges are more likely than other students to borrow, and they typically borrow larger amounts.

At private colleges (for-profit and non-profit) about 25% of certificate and associate degree students borrowed more than $20,000. Only 5% of comparable public college students borrowed that much.

In 2008, 60% of all graduates borrowed for their education, compared with 52% in 1996.

The average loan for a bachelor's degree was more than $23,000 in 2008, compared with $17,000 in 1996.

24% of 2008 bachelor's degree graduates at for-profit schools borrowed more than $40,000, compared with 5% of graduates at public institutions and 14% at private not-for-profit schools.

Source: "The Rise of College Student Borrowing" pewsocialtrends.org

Is Retirement a Thing of the Past?

As the first wave of America's 77 million baby boomers reaches the official retirement age of 65, it remains to be seen if they'll kick back or keep working.

The closer they get to retirement age, the fewer boomers expect to take advantage of it. Just 15 percent of employed boomers turning 65 this year say they expect to retire by age 65, while 27 percent say they plan to retire between age 66 and 69, and 29 percent say they won't leave the workplace until age 70 or older.

But back when today's 65-year-olds were a mere 60 years old, 66 percent of them thought they'd be retired by now.

Surprisingly, even younger workers think it's a good idea for boomers to keep working.

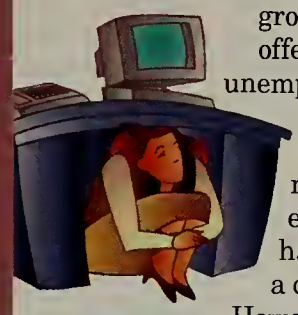
In a recent Marist poll, 71 percent of younger Americans thought that boomers should stay on the job until well into their 70s.

Although more boomers on the job means fewer job openings for younger workers, older workers are concerned that they won't have enough income to retire comfortably and younger workers are concerned that retiring boomers could strain the Social Security and Medicare systems.

Sources:
"Most Want Boomers to Keep Working in Golden Years," marketwatch.com

"Boomers Take the Retire Out of Retirement," npr.org

Is It a Recovery Yet?



The good news about employment is that it's growing: Job offers are up, unemployment is down and maybe, just maybe, the economy has turned a corner. However, the optimism is measured and no one is predicting boom times around the corner.

Some of the trends that point to a recovery are:

- **52 percent of Americans are optimistic that the economy will improve this year** while just 25 percent believe it will get worse and 21 percent believe it will stay the same.

  Source: "Looking at 2011 Economy, Optimists Double Pessimists," gallup.com

- Job creation is up across the country. The beleaguered Midwest, where unemployment reached double digits, now leads the rest of the nation in percentage of jobs created with **32 percent of Midwestern employers reporting that they are hiring.**

  Source: "Midwest Leads December U.S. Job Creation; East and West Trail," gallup.com

- Indeed Inc. and the *Wall Street Journal* reported that the number of **U.S. job postings on the Internet rose to 4.7 million in December 2010** up from 2.7 million just a year earlier.

  Source: "Job Offers Rising as Economy Warms Up," online.wsj.com

- *USA Today* and Moody's Analytics predicts an overall **1.9 percent increase in jobs nationwide for 2011.**

Source: "Jobs Rebound Will be Slow," usatoday.com

Feature

Is a Career in Public Safety the Ticket for Y

Do you have the urge to save people in distress, want to help others during a time of crisis or take great measures to safeguard the interest of civilians? If you have answered YES to these questions, then obtaining a degree in public safety and security may pave the way for a bright career for you.

Criminal Justice Department Chair Reed V. Hillman

By Robin Duncan

Whenever there is a catastrophe, it is natural for people to panic and sometimes worsen the situation. Though immediate paramedical help and rescuers may reach the appropriate location to save lives, most of the time it is too late for some to survive the ordeal. Terrorism, politically-motivated riots, wars, accidents and natural disasters have made it critical to revise current public safety measures. All these events and circumstances have contributed to the growing demand for trained professionals in the field of public safety and security in the United States. And even though there are, typically, a higher percentage of men than women in the public safety profession, women are entering this field more now than in the past.

Public safety professional career and economic outlook

A career in public safety can be an extremely rewarding job, as its overarching purpose is to care for the well-being of people. Public safety covers a range of different jobs, all essential to the smooth running of our modern society. Most jobs within this sector fall under one or more professional areas: public safety leadership, criminal justice and emergency management. Such careers may involve working as a police officer, security guard, a park ranger, an emergency medical technician, a paramedic or a firefighter, to name a few. All these jobs, however, perform some really important tasks and have a great level of responsibility on a daily basis, all designed to keep people and their communities safe.

Leominster firefighter Brenda Greenawalt.

The future appears bright for those looking for a career in public safety. A recent survey shows that openings within this sector grow at an average, to faster than average rate, with plenty of demand for new workers. Due to population growth, the demand for public safety workers is growing all the time, and the public interest in security is also a driving force behind the amount of jobs opening up every day. However, job opportunity and the level of competition for a job are dependent upon the needs of the specific demographic area.

Becoming a public safety professional: required skills and education

In almost all public safety careers, it is important to have a good level of physical fitness, an understanding of public laws and regulations, excellent communication skills, and to know the techniques and procedures unique to a chosen public safety department. Most employers view a public safety degree as a real advantage. It typically prepares individuals for management opportunities with associated higher salaries. Various degree programs may differ but most will cover some or all of the following areas: communications, fire safety, emergency management, information technology, criminal justice, public administration and public policy, environmental health and safety, and health administration and health sciences.

A public safety degree may be offered on-campus in the traditional way, or, as is becoming very popular, may be completed online. Acquiring a degree in public safety can open many doors and opportunities that were not realized without the degree. Employers view the degree as a real advantage as graduates are often able to use strategic planning skills, work with disaster prevention and response and recovery.

At Mount Wachusett Community College, there are a number of public safety degrees and programs that allow students to choose their areas of interest. Options include a Criminal Justice degree with a concentration in Corrections or Law Enforcement; a Law Enforcement certificate; an Emergency Medical Technician training program in preparation for the state exam; and

Public Safety Career Salaries

The Bureau of Labor Statistics, www.bls.gov, lists the median annual salary for a public safety profession as between $30,000 and $46,000. However, upper-level police detectives and firefighting management are more likely to earn higher salaries. For example, the average salary for firefighters is $46,500 a year, police officers earn around $49,000 and security managers about $52,000. Compensating public servants for their efforts has taken a focus in many governmental funding issues.

a Fire Science Technology degree program which is among the first accepted into the National Fire Academy's new Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) Institutional Recognition and Certificate Program.

Beginning September 2011, this program will be offered entirely on an online basis or in combination with on-campus courses. This nationally-recognized FESHE program meets the needs of firefighters with relevant coursework in building construction, fire investigation and prevention, and more. Students pursuing the associate degree also have the option of expanding their education and transferring credits toward a bachelor's degree.

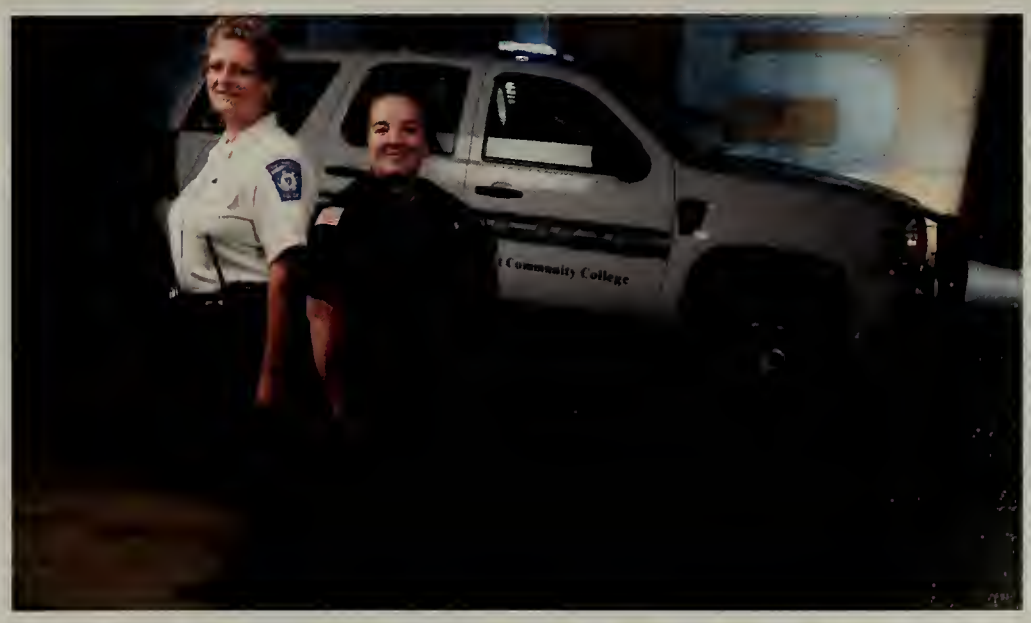
Brenda Greenawalt, a firefighter on the Leominster department who is also double-majoring in Nursing and Fire Science Technology commented, "I think it is a great decision. The online courses will provide more flexibility for Fire Science students to take the classes on a more convenient basis. My work hours change every week which makes it difficult to take traditional campus-based courses. Online courses will allow me to work it around my schedule."

The background of nearly every public safety worker will reveal some sort of post-high school education. While many public servants may admit they did not have college plans after high school, it is evident that they all found their new job worthy of obtaining formal education to achieve their career status.

Beyond the education and financial security, however, a career in public safety is a rewarding one. Oftentimes, when public safety professionals are asked why they keep doing what they do, even though the physical and mental strains may be high, they simply say that they "love their jobs." Such a profession can be fulfilling because you help those in need and truly make a difference for so many people. It is a career that gives back.

According to Reed V. Hillman, MWCC's chair of the Criminal Justice program with 25 years of service with the Massachusetts State Police, including three years as commander of the 2,600-person department, "Criminal Justice provides great career opportunities. You really have the ability to help people in so many ways and make a positive impact in their lives."

And with regard to MWCC's quality of instruction and learning opportunities to be the best public safety professional there is, Hillman further comments, "As colonel, I interacted with all the rest of the criminal justice system from clerk magistrates and judges to local police officers and federal criminal justice agencies. I have a good working knowledge of the entire system, so I know what to emphasize in the classroom. I can bring almost any important concept alive with a real-life anecdote to illustrate a point." Hillman, earned his undergraduate degree at Babson College and his Juris Doctor at Suffolk University Law School.



MWCC Chief of Public Safety and Security Karen Kolimaga with Lt. Melissa Croteau, an MWCC alumna.

MWCC Public Safety Programs

- Criminal Justice Degree—Corrections Concentration
- Criminal Justice Degree—Law Enforcement Concentration
- Emergency Medical Technician Training
- Fire Science Technology Degree
- Law Enforcement Certificate

All Criminal Justice faculty bring a wealth of experience to the classroom. Criminal Justice Professor Elena Natalizia was founder and director of Rhode Island Justice Alliance and worked as criminal justice coordinator for the American Friends Service Committee in Cambridge, MA. She has taught at several state and public colleges. And, Professor Bonnie Toothaker has over 14 years of experience in local and campus law enforcement, and 10 years in corrections counseling, teaching, and working with both offenders and victims of sexual assault and battering. As Coordinator of International Education and Study Abroad for MWCC, she has traveled extensively, and has studied and taught criminal justice internationally.

For more information, email cf@mwcc.edu or call 978-630-9284.

Education Key to Success in Diverse Regio

In the face of enormous challenge, English-as-a-Second Language and immigrant students demonstrate great determination

By Janice O'Connor

Speakers of other languages have been arriving in the "new land" of America for the chance of a better life for hundreds of years. From the Europeans who first settled among the Native Americans to the millions of immigrants arriving during the 19th and 20th centuries, to the current immigration wave, the U.S. prevails as the world's melting pot.

Changing demographics

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the nation's population grew nearly 10 percent over the past decade. Approximately half of that growth reported in the 2010 Census is attributed to an increase in minority populations, through birth and immigration, reflecting a country that is becoming increasingly diverse. In Massachusetts, the population grew 3.1 percent to 6.5 million. Massachusetts is one of six states in the nation that attributes all of its growth over the past decade to an increase among the Hispanic and Latino population.

Retired Worcester Juvenile Court Judge Luis Perez recently led a leadership training course for students in MWCC's ESL Service Learning Leadership program. Pictured, from left, student Alma Martinez, Workforce Development Coordinator Teresita Encarnacion, student Yendy Rodriguez, ESL Academic Counselor Jose Mangual, Judge Luis Perez, and students Maria Quinteros and Luz Cruz.

Overcoming the language barrier

For many, overcoming the language barrier is often a first step in making a new life in a new country. And for those starting over in Central Massachusetts, Mount Wachusett Community College, which offers programs designed to take students from English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) courses straight through to commencement, is often a first stop on the way to an academic degree and career.

Eda Bennett of Gardner, originally from Malaysia, came to the U.S. in 1990 to live with an aunt in Boston and improve her life through education. Through a friend in Leominster, she moved to the North Central region and began a year of ESL courses at MWCC. With her new language skills expanding, she enrolled in noncredit courses at MWCC to become a certified nurse aid, and didn't stop there. Inspired by a family member who was a nurse, Bennett realized that she, too, would like to help others through nursing.

Eda Bennett

While working 70-hour weeks caring for senior citizens at area life care centers to pay her way through school, she took on a full-time course schedule to complete the prerequisites required to enroll in the college's rigorous nursing program in 1996. She graduated with an associate degree in nursing in 1998 then worked as a registered nurse while completing her bachelor's degree in nursing at Fitchburg State University. An intensive care nurse at UMass Medical Center University Campus in Worcester, she is now considering her master's degree options to become a nurse anesthetist.

"The language barrier is the number one challenge. I was a shy person then, and I didn't know anyone and I didn't know the language," she says. "MWCC's ESL courses were among the tools I used to quickly learn English and made me want to learn more. In the classes, everybody's from a different culture, and that's one of the things I liked. Everyone there has the same goal–to learn English," says Bennett, who became a U.S. citizen in 1997.

"No matter what your background, if you put your heart into doing something, you will achieve it. I value education very highly. That's something you accomplished. No one can take it from you. I just kept telling myself, 'I can do this.' "

A full range of opportunity

Many students enroll in MWCC's ESL program because they want to communicate better at work or re-enter a career field they had before living in the U.S., while others are interested in pursuing a degree, explains Dr. Madhu Sharma, ESL program coordinator. The ESL program now

Karen Palma

includes traditional college courses online in Spanish, as well as access to an ESL computer lab. The program sponsors events throughout the year as well as a language café that meets weekly to provide students with an opportunity to practice their skills.

"If I hadn't taken ESL courses at MWCC, I would not have made it this far."

– Karen Palma

"Students receive guidance from their first step into the college," says Jose Mangual, an ESL advisor at MWCC. Most recently, a group of ESL students participated in a community outreach program that started with a leadership training course taught by retired Worcester Juvenile Court Judge Luis Perez, widely recognized for his efforts to serve youth and the Latino community for more than three decades.

"I learned a lot in the leadership program," said student Luz Cruz who transitioned from ESL courses into academic courses to pursue a degree in Human Services and was among the students who formed an ESL club at the college this year. "The most important things are diplomacy, and belief in yourself to achieve your dreams."

The path to success

Karen Palma of Gardner who came from Chile in 2001 at age 18, says MWCC's ESL program provided the foundation for her academic and career success. After attending ESL classes from 2002 to 2004, she went on to earn an associate degree in Human Services, then transferred to UMass, Amherst for a bachelor's degree in psychology in 2009. She now works in the psychiatric department at Cambridge Hospital.

"If I hadn't taken ESL courses at MWCC, I would not have made it this far," she says.

Jean Paul Turayishimye and Alice Uwishema

Alice Uwishema, who came to the U.S. in 2007 from Rwanda, initially enhanced her English skills in MWCC's ESL courses before enrolling in the Business Administration program. Her husband, Jean Paul Turayishimye, a former member of the Rwandan Patriotic Army that succeeded in halting the 1994 genocide, was already enrolled in the Paralegal Studies program at MWCC, having come to the U.S. on political asylum.

Turayishimye, who speaks six languages and works as a court interpreter throughout Massachusetts, worked full-time to pay for the couple's college education. The Gardner couple graduated in May 2011.

"I received a strong foundation at MWCC," says Turayishimye, who is now pursuing a bachelor's degree from the American College of History and Legal Studies and plans to continue on for a law degree.

"There is time to interact with your professors and the academic support center is available if you have difficulties. They give you a lot of work, but it's worth it. Education is the key to success, in my opinion."

For more information about MWCC's ESL courses, contact Jose Mangual at 978-630-9818, email jmangual@mwcc.mass.edu, or go to http://mwcc.edu/programs/ESL/default.html.

Brightening Smiles Intercontinentally

Maria Batchelor

In her native Brazil, Maria Mesquita Batchelor worked as a dentist for eight years before love and marriage brought her to the U.S. in 2003. Now a mother of two young sons, Batchelor chose to resume her career in the dental field in a manner that will enable her to balance her busy family life with her profession.

Due to differences among countries in patient care and academic requirements, Batchelor, who already was fluent in English, knew she would have to start anew once in the U.S. In 2008, she enrolled at MWCC to take prerequisite math and science courses before entering the college's Dental Hygiene program. Despite a long commute from her home in North Attleboro, she chose MWCC after researching dental hygiene programs.

"I got a very friendly response here and I felt valued. I was very happy to study here because the program compared to others has fewer students and we work with a community health clinic, so we have very good exposure to work with patients," she says. "Mount Wachusett provides the best in terms of experience."

Batchelor is particularly drawn to community health care. In addition to clinical work with Community Health Connections/Dental Services in Fitchburg, Batchelor and her classmates visited public schools, extended care centers, veterans' facilities, shelters for the homeless and other sites. "There are so many underserved people. Let's focus on prevention and education so their dental needs will not be as great."

While a student, Batchelor became a U.S. citizen in November 2010 in a ceremony at Fenway Park. The following spring, she graduated with an associate degree in Dental Hygiene, and passed her licensure exam with flying colors. She plans to eventually return to college to pursue an advanced degree.

"Going back to school after 30, you can appreciate it better. When I first started, it was a challenge. I was taking the prerequisite courses online. I had just had my second baby. But I would do it all over again. I grew as a person and as a professional."

– Janice O'Connor

Are Online Courses the Right Choice for You?

Online courses are amazingly convenient . . . for the right student

Most colleges and universities, and many other education providers, are promoting online or "distance education" offerings as an alternative way to learn. Rather than having to come to campus on a rigid schedule to take classes, you can learn when you have the time and from home or any other location where you can access the technology.

Why people like it

What do students like most about online courses? The overwhelming majority agrees that it is their convenience that makes online courses attractive. The ability to study at a time and place of their choosing, to fit school into busy and changing personal schedules—these are the reasons people study online. Online courses save commuting time and expense, and allow students to spend more time with their families and learn at their own pace. Students who may be reticent to participate in a regular classroom setting may be quite "vocal" in an online chat or discussion group.

Potential drawbacks

However, online courses are not without drawbacks. Students who have taken online courses often miss the personal interaction with classmates and the immediate feedback from instructors that characterize traditional courses. Online courses demand considerable self-motivation and discipline. Just as online learning fits only some students, online teaching fits only some instructors. It requires methods of its own to be effective.

You should not enroll in an online class thinking it's going to be easy. An online course may take more time than a traditional class, and some students report that they find online courses more difficult. Final grade distributions confirm the commonsense notion that this kind of learning is not for everyone. For a self-directed, motivated, independent learner, online courses may work very well. But if one is less organized, often procrastinates, and needs immediate feedback from the instructor, an online course may be a disaster.

Hybrid courses: a happy medium?

If you are contemplating online education, you might consider a new course format, often termed "hybrid" because it combines traditional on-campus classes with extensive use of online resources. That way, you gain experience with online learning but have the security of the traditional classroom.

Research shows that success in online courses requires as much, if not more, time and effort than traditional classroom courses. The typical class, regardless of format, requires two to three hours for completing assignments and studying, for every hour spent in class. Thus a three-credit class requires six to nine hours outside of class per week. In a hybrid or online course, part or all of your class time is also independent study. Students should expect to invest at least 15 hours in a hybrid class in addition to on-campus meetings.

Student feedback underscores the changed role of the instructor in teaching a web-based class. The faculty member identifies sources and documents, and then leads students in mostly independent study by providing research questions. The instructor continually monitors student learning by conducting online discussion groups, requiring and evaluating recurring writing assignments, and, in a hybrid course, leading classroom discussions.

A hybrid course with extensive use of web resources can promote a successful, active learning experience. If you are considering online learning, but you're unsure, give a hybrid class a try and see if it works for you. You will be better positioned to evaluate if you would be a successful online learner.

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Michelle Rattanavong, mother of three, completed her degree entirely in the evening at MWCC's Leominster Campus. Michelle now runs her own successful event planning business.

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*Possibilities vary per s[illegible] de[illegible]forma[illegible]

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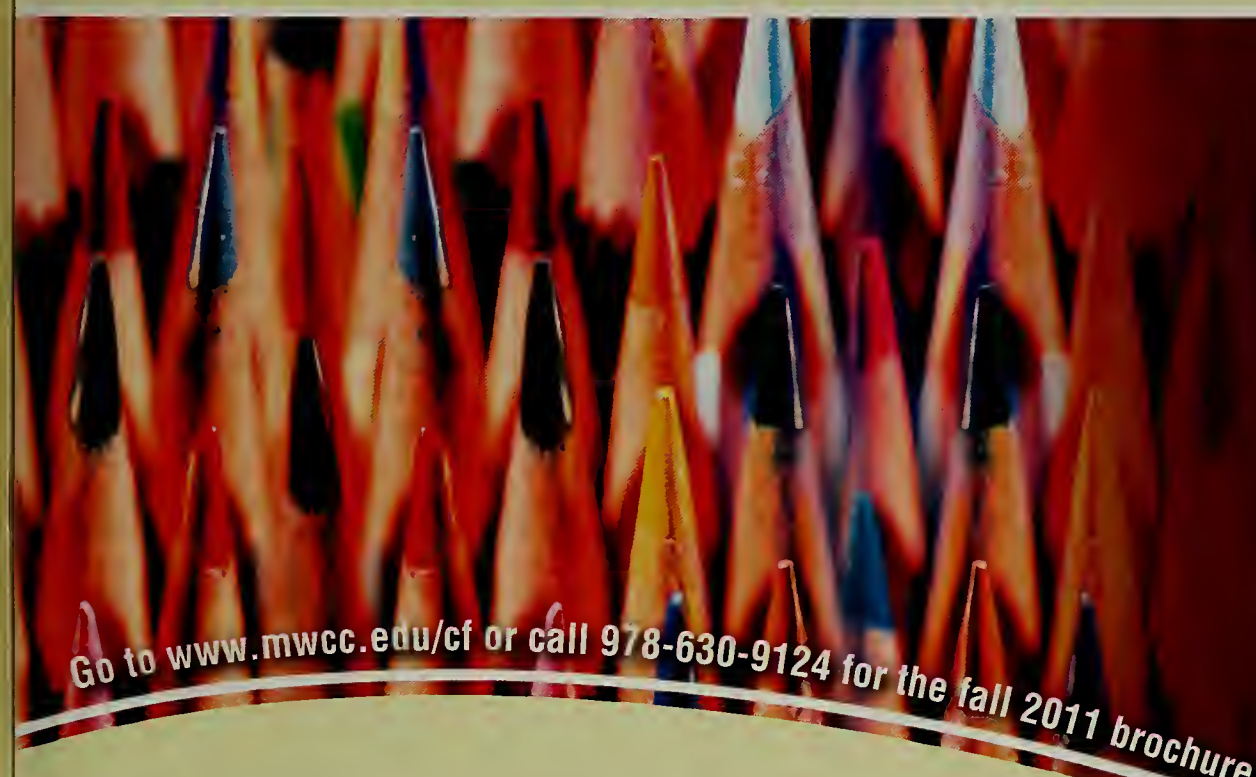

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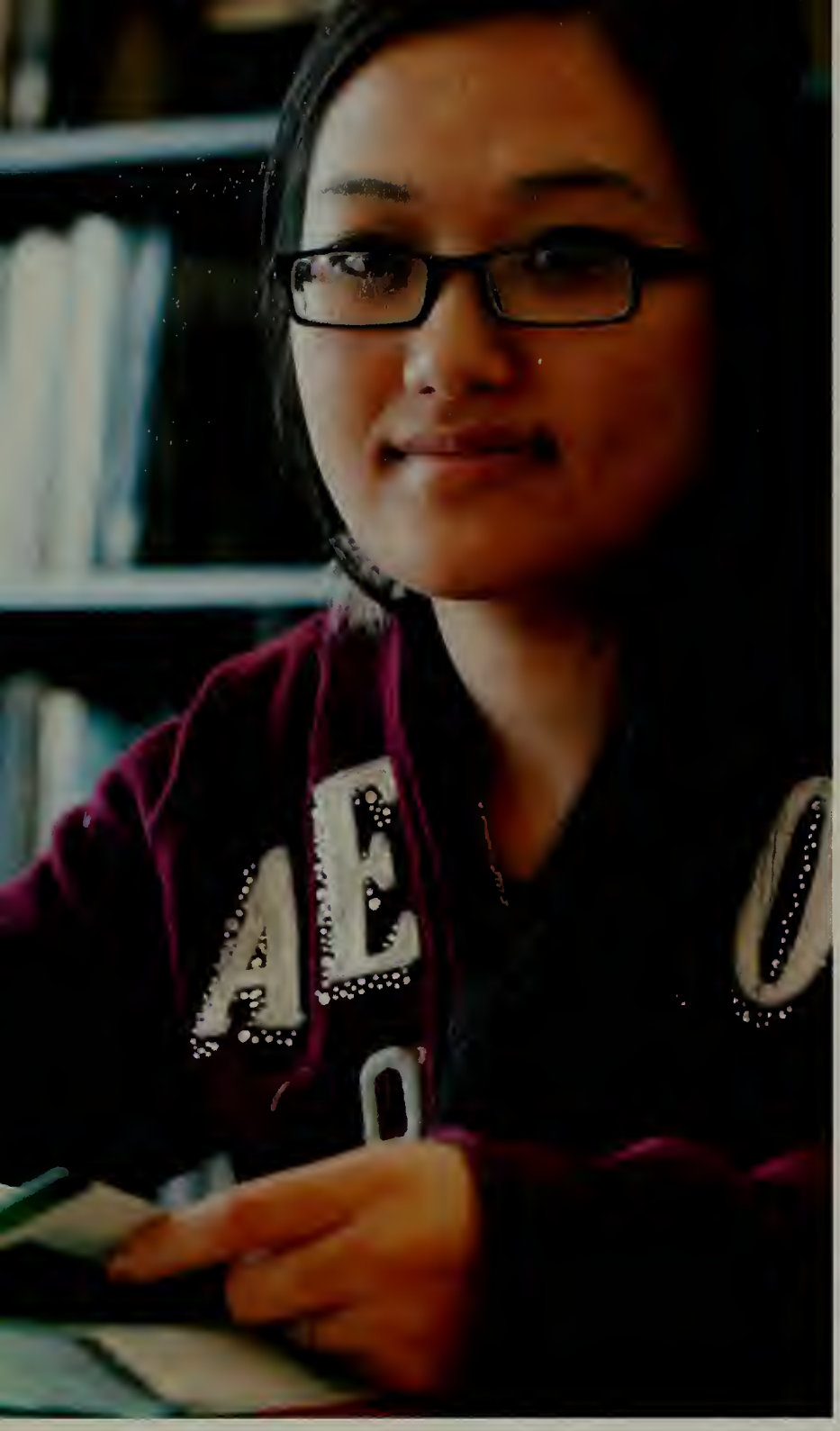
Mount Wachusett Community College

MWCC Campus Locations & Hours

Gardner Campus
444 Green Street, Gardner, MA 01440
Office hours:
Mon - Thu, 8 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.; Fri, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
978-632-6600
Email: admissions@mwcc.mass.edu

Leominster Campus
100 Erdman Way, Leominster, MA 01453
Office hours:
Mon - Thu, 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m., Fri, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
978-630-9810
Email: leominster@mwcc.mass.edu

Devens Campus
One Jackson Place
27 Jackson Road, Devens, MA 01434
Mon - Thu, 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m., Fri, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
978-630-9569
Email: devens@mwcc.mass.edu



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Computer Graphic Design—Print
Computer Graphic Design—Web Design
Computer Information Systems
Criminal Justice—Corrections Concentration*
Criminal Justice— Law Enforcement Concentration*
Dental Hygiene
Early Childhood Education—Career
Early Childhood Education—Transfer
Elementary Education Track*
Energy Management
Fire Science Technology
Fitness Leadership & Exercise Science Track*
General Studies
History & Political Science Track*
Human Services
Liberal Arts & Sciences
Manufacturing Technology—Plastics
Medical Assisting
Natural Resources
Nursing
Paralegal Studies
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Video/Film Concentration*
Yoga Teacher Training Concentration*

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Automotive Technology
Biotechnology/Biomanufacturing
Business Administration
Complementary Health Care
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Computer Graphic Design—Web Design
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